



FOCUS

SPRING 2010

REPORT FROM CITY HALL

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Sustainable Food Packaging Ordinance

San Bruno is about to join a growing number of California cities banning the use of polystyrene food service ware. On April 1, 2010 the Sustainable Food Packaging Ordinance goes into effect, prohibiting disposable food service ware made from polystyrene.

Polystyrene is one of the most commonly encountered items that litter our streets, sidewalks, parks, creeks, storm drains and the Bay. Unlike paper-based products, polystyrene does not decompose once it becomes litter. Instead it breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces, commonly ingested by wildlife. When ingested by an animal, the result is reduced appetite, reduced nutrient absorption and starvation. Even when not mistaken for food, littered polystyrene commonly clogs the city's storm drains and pumps, leading to localized flooding and mechanical failures.

The ordinance applies to such establishments as restaurants, grocery store delis, hotels, bars, coffee shops, cafes, mobile food vendors as well as city facilities where food is served. Prohibited food service ware items include all containers, bowls, plates, trays, cartons, cups, lids, straws, utensils and similar items with the



resin identification code #6 on the bottom. Acceptable items include recyclable materials such as paper, aluminum and plastic with resin identification #'s 1, 2, 4 and 5; as well as biodegradable products made from corn, potatoes, sugar cane waste and other agricultural products.

Since the passage of the Sustainable Food Packaging Ordinance in February 2009, the city has worked with affected businesses to educate them about the ordinance and identify suitable alternatives. As the deadline approaches, we are happy to report that many establishments are already serving only recyclable or compostable products and that all intend to do so by the April 1 deadline. If you have questions about the new requirements, please contact the City's Public Services Department at **(650) 616-7065**.

SAN BRUNO POLICE DEPARTMENT EXPLORER POST

Are you interested in the law enforcement field? Have you wondered about all of the careers available at a police department? Do you want to volunteer for your community? The San Bruno Police Explorer Post may be right for you.

The San Bruno Police Explorer Post is designed for high school and college students between the ages of 14 and 20 years who are interested in law enforcement and who maintain a passing grade point average. No experience is necessary aside from the desire and will to learn about this interesting field. Applicants will be asked to participate in an interview process and, if successful, must pass a background investigation.

Selected participants will attend an Explorer Academy, where the students learn about topics such as investigations, search and rescue, and first aid. Explorers are able to ride along with patrol officers and often assist with events such as the Posy Parade and other non-hazardous functions. The Explorer program provides insight into police operations and allows participants to interact with the members of the San Bruno community while they consider a future career in law enforcement.

If you are interested in joining the San Bruno Police Explorer Post, applications can be picked up at the San Bruno Police Department. Applicants under 18 years of age must have parental consent. If you have questions please call School Resource Officer Tony Perkins at **(650) 616-7115**.

San Bruno Receives Traffic Safety Grant for DUI and Speed Enforcement

The San Bruno Police Department was recently awarded a traffic safety grant for a one year, anti-Driving Under the Influence (DUI) program aimed at preventing deaths and injuries on our roadways. The Department will add enforcement measures to combat impaired driving as a result of the \$80,895 grant. Funding for the grant comes from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

Over the years, the San Bruno Police Department has been successful in requesting and receiving funds from OTS to cover personnel costs associated with enhanced enforcement efforts and equipment purchases. This year's grant includes funding to focus on motorists driving at excessive speeds. The Department has already purchased additional speed-measuring devices to be

used by officers while conducting speed enforcement campaigns throughout the year.

Drunk driving is one of America's deadliest crimes. In 2008, over 11,700 people died in highway crashes involving a driver or motorcycle operator with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 or higher. The special DUI Enforcement and Awareness grant is designed to assist in efforts to reduce the number of persons killed and injured in alcohol and other drug related collisions. The grant activities will specifically target impaired driving offenders through the use of DUI/driver's license checkpoints and additional patrols.

The San Bruno Police Department encourages everyone to "Report Drunk Drivers – Call 911" and be ready to describe the vehicle, its location and direction of travel to make your community a safe place to drive.

BUILDING PERMIT INFORMATION – Requirements and Time Limits

Property owners may not be aware that building permits are required for almost all types of construction. This includes projects that enlarge, alter, move, demolish, or change the occupancy of a building or structure. Building permits are also required for the installation, replacement or alternation of any electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system. There are very few exceptions to this rule, so always check with the Community Development Department before proceeding with any construction.

Building permits expire after a certain amount of time. Requiring projects to be completed within a certain timeframe protects neighborhoods from impacts of lingering construction. The expired permit program also increases staff efficiency, by avoiding backlogs of incomplete permit files and allowing the focus to remain on active construction applications. In San Bruno, the amount of time you have to complete your project ranges from 6 months to 3 years, depending on the size of the project. Failure to complete your project within the given timeframe can result in significant fines.

At the time a building permit is issued, the person who obtains the permit (homeowner, contractor, etc) is made aware of the time limit rules. The City also mails a “Pre-Expiration Courtesy Notice” about one month before the permit officially expires. This pre-expiration notice has proven very useful, as homeowners are often not aware that their contractor did not receive final approval. If the contractor or property owner does not respond to this notice, a permit expiration letter will be sent to the property owner once the permits expires, explaining the options for moving forward.

For more information on building permits and the expired building permit program, please check the Community Development, Building Division section of the City’s website or call (650) 616-7074.

Come Back to Cable!

San Bruno Municipal Cable, your TV service provider for 39 years offers low rates and high value for San Bruno residents. While some consumers have elected to try other providers, many come back to cable shortly thereafter complaining about the performance of those companies. Below are 10 reasons customers have told us why they returned to San Bruno Cable.

Don’t wait any longer... come back to cable today!



10. Your contract is about to expire and their rates are too high.
9. Getting a service call from your provider takes over a week.
8. Cable TV has over 65 unique true HD channels in the Basic HD tier.
7. Cable TV has Video On Demand with hundreds of hours of free programming.
6. Cable has NBA League Pass, NHL Center Ice and MLB Extra Innings in season!
5. Their rates looked good at first, but now.....ouch!
4. You want to support the local economy (and your City) by supporting local business.
3. Cable TV now has 24/7 telephone support for cable, Internet and phone services.
2. International Channels - 45 Spanish, 6 Hindi, 4 Mandarin, 3 Tagalog, 3 Russian, etc.

And the number one reason to come back to cable now is....

1. **The “Come Back to Cable Special” below is too good to pass up.**

Make the switch and come back to cable! We’ll make it easy. Get free installation and activation (a \$100 value) Get \$50 credit on your first cable bill. Free use of standard boxes for TV service and a modem for Internet service. Call us to schedule an installation appointment. We do the work! Visit sanbrunocable.com for rates and details* or call 616-3100 and “Come back to Cable!”

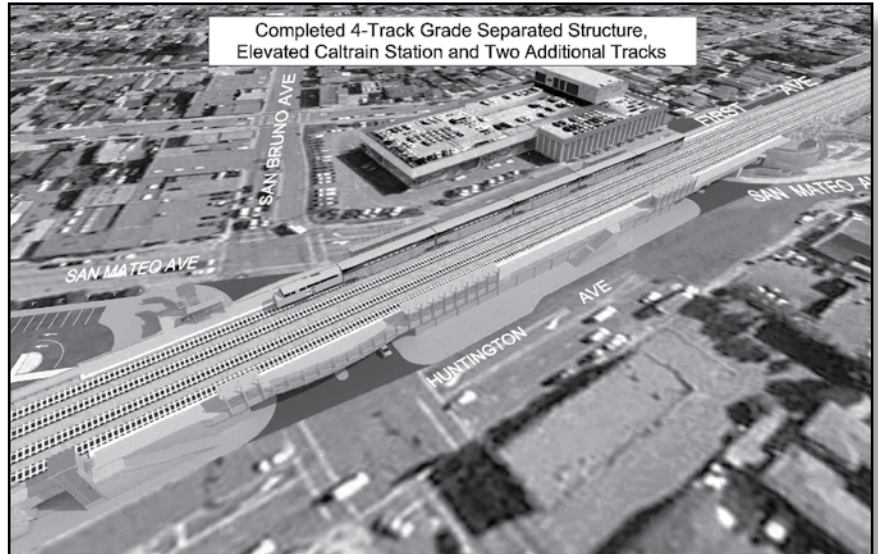
**Restrictions apply*

CALTRAIN GRADE SEPARATION

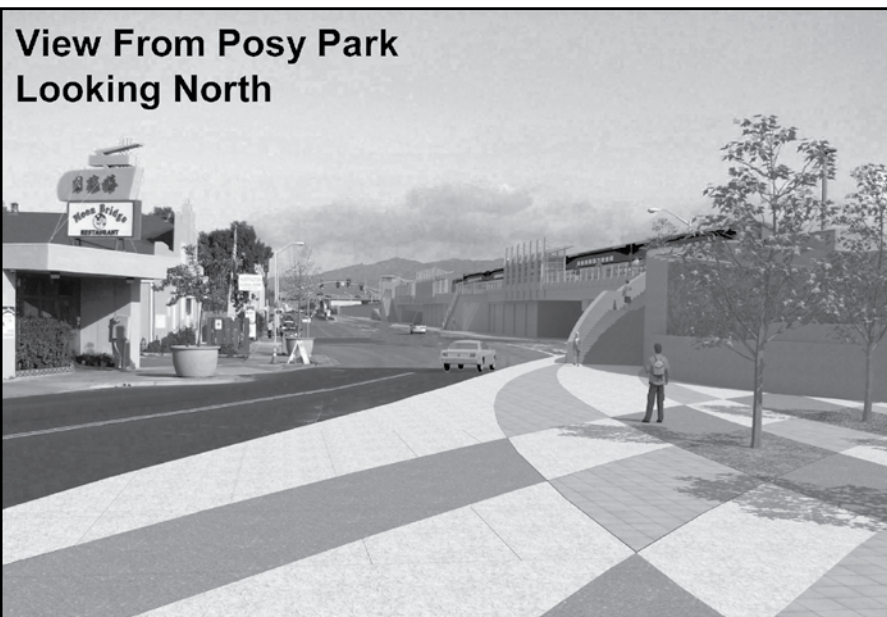
After years of planning, Caltrain has recently announced that final design of the San Bruno Caltrain Grade Separation Project has been completed and the project is on track to begin construction by late 2010. Preliminary underground utility work is expected to begin as early as this spring. The project will improve safety by elevating the train tracks above vehicular and pedestrian traffic between I-380 and San Felipe Avenue. Although construction will occur before rollout of the California High Speed Rail Project, the grade separations will be built to accommodate the additional tracks needed for the high-speed trains.

The scope of work includes:

- Vehicle under crossings at Angus, San Mateo and San Bruno Avenues
- Pedestrian under crossings at Sylvan and Euclid Avenues
- A new elevated station at San Mateo and San Bruno Avenues
- Improvements to surrounding streets and sidewalks—including those at Posy Park



View From Posy Park Looking North



If you are interested in viewing the design drawings, please visit the City's website at http://www.sanbruno.ca.gov/pw_proj_noncity.html. The most up to date information and artistic renderings of the project can be found at Caltrain's website: http://caltrain.com/project_sanbruno_grade_separation.html.

2009-2010 Sidewalk Repair Program

The City of San Bruno has engaged a concrete contractor to begin the repair of more than 2,800 locations throughout the City where damage to sidewalks results in offsets of $\frac{3}{4}$ " or greater. In our City, property owners are responsible for repairing sidewalk damage not caused by a street tree. If the concrete contractor works in your neighborhood, you may receive a notice from the City directing you to make any necessary sidewalk repairs. You may use a licensed concrete contractor of your choosing, or use the City's low-bid concrete contractor and have the \$354 City permit fee waived. Even if you don't receive a notice to repair from the City, you may voluntarily sign up to have the City's concrete contractor repair any sidewalk damage or install a new driveway approach. Over the next few years, all property owners will be required to make these repairs, so sign up now to get on the list for the next round of work beginning this spring. Please visit the City website below for more information about the Sidewalk Repair Program and how to sign up.

www.sanbruno.ca.gov/pw_homepage.html

REMEMBER:

It is the property owner's responsibility to maintain their adjacent sidewalk and driveway approach ramps in a safe and serviceable condition.



2010 CENSUS: IT'S IN OUR HANDS

2010 is a census year and the U.S. Census Bureau is back at work counting the residents of our Country, State and City. The goal of the 2010 Census is to count all residents living in the United States on April 1, 2010. In March, you will receive a Census form in the mail that has 10 questions and will only take about 10 minutes for the average household to complete. Please do your share to ensure a complete count for San Bruno.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

The federal government distributes more than \$400 billion annually to state and local governments based on Census data. For each person not counted, California will lose an estimated \$2,363 each year for the next 10 years in Federal funding such as community development block grants and social services. In addition, California is at risk for losing congressional representation for the first time in history.

The City of San Bruno has benefitted from the Federal funding based upon census results for many projects such as the improvement of the medians on El Camino Real and affordable senior housing at The Crossing. Residents can also look forward to assistance with energy efficiency improvements and solar panels.

The facts gathered in the Census also help shape decisions for the rest of the decade about neighborhood improvements, transportation, education, senior services, public health and much more. For example, Census information serves as the basis for the City's planning efforts like the Transit Corridor Plan and the Redevelopment Implementation Plan.

IT'S EASY & SAFE

The 2010 Census asks for name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship, and whether you own or rent your home. They will NOT ask about immigration status or for your social security number. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share the information with anyone, including other government agencies. The Census workers will not tell the City, Internal Revenue Service, or Immigration and Customs Enforcement anything about you.

If you live in a neighborhood with a large number of Spanish speakers, you will receive the form in English and Spanish. There will also be assistance for people who speak other languages. You will receive a letter from the Census Bureau telling you where you can get help filling out your form.

For more information, visit the 2010 Census Web site at <http://www.census.gov/2010>

By participating in the Census, you can help create a better future for you and those important to you. It's in our hands: be counted.

United States®
**Census
2010**

**CENSUS FACT! The
2010 census is expected
to find over 38 million
Californians; more than
a 12% increase from the
33.9 million that were
found living in the State
in 2000.**

Get Prepared

January's devastating earthquake in Haiti has prompted a worldwide relief effort to assist the disaster victims in that country. Visit www.redcross.org/ to learn how you can help. This tragedy serves to remind us of the importance of preparedness when confronted with any disaster.

When the next earthquake hits California, will you be ready? First responders and other City service resources will be quickly overwhelmed in the aftermath of a disaster; therefore, you must be prepared to be self-sufficient for at least 48 to 72 hours after the initial event. Developing a personal disaster preparedness plan that provides at least a seven-day supply of emergency food, water and personal necessities can help you recover from a catastrophic event. A comprehensive list of suggested supplies can be found on the American Red Cross website.

Subscribing to San Mateo's County's Community Alert System (SMC Alert) can help residents obtain accurate and timely information in the wake of a disaster. SMC Alert is free and can immediately contact you during a major crisis or emergency. The system will deliver important emergency alerts, notifications and updates to all of your registered communication devices including email accounts, cell phones, pagers or other handheld devices. To register, log on to **www.smcalert.info**

Disasters can occur with no advance warning, however, advance planning can greatly assist in keeping you safe and speeding up the recovery efforts.

The San Bruno and Millbrae Fire Departments are jointly offering CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) training. San Bruno residents interested in the program can contact the Fire Department at **(650) 616-7096** for more details.

BE WHERE THE ACTION IS...**GET INVOLVED!**

The City of San Bruno has ten Citizen Advisory Commissions, Boards and Committees whose volunteer members are San Bruno residents appointed by the City Council. Each of these advisory bodies provides recommendations to the City Council on topics and issues important in our community. Meetings are typically held once a month in the evenings. Members serve four-year terms that expire in October of even years, at which time they may wish to seek re-appointment for another term.

We currently have vacancies on the

- **Citizens Crime Prevention Committee**
- **Personnel Board**
- **Traffic Safety & Parking Committee**

Applications are available by visiting the City Clerk's office in City Hall, located at 567 El Camino Real, calling **(650) 616-7058** or emailing cbonner@sanbruno.ca.gov. We will be happy to mail or email you an application. You may apply at any time of the year; applications are kept on file for two years. When vacancies occur, applicants will be contacted to confirm their interest. You can also look for vacancy announcements on San Bruno Cable T.V. Channel 1.

CITY OF SAN BRUNO

567 El Camino Real
San Bruno, CA 94066

SAN BRUNO CITY COUNCIL

Mayor

Jim Ruane

Vice Mayor

Rico E. Medina

Councilmembers

Ken Ibarra
Irene O'Connell
Michael Salazar

City Manager

Connie Jackson

City Clerk

Carol Bonner

City Treasurer

John Marty

Website:

www.sanbruno.ca.gov

We welcome your comments.
Please call Randy Schwartz at
(650) 616-7181, or email him at
rschwartz@sanbruno.a.gov.

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OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP - MAY 1ST San Bruno Beautification Task Force

If you're tired of seeing litter in the streets and would like to be part of the solution, join us for **Operation Clean Sweep** on **Saturday, May 1, 2010**, at 9 a.m., Veterans Memorial Recreation Center, San Bruno City Park. Volunteers join together to pick up litter and recycling as well as help with special projects such as painting, planting flowers and drought tolerant plants, and spreading wood chips where needed.

Operation Clean Sweep is a great way to spend the morning with family, friends and neighbors, make new friends and help beautify San Bruno. All volunteers enjoy morning coffee/donuts, an appreciation gift, and lunch provided by Recology San Bruno.

Operation Clean Sweep is a partnership between the City of San Bruno and Recology San Bruno.

For more information, please call the San Bruno Beautification Task Force Hotline at **(650) 616-7145**. To volunteer, register online at **www.sanbruno.ca.gov**.



Frequently Called Numbers (Area Code 650)

Building Permits	616-7076
Business Taxes & Licenses	616-7083
Cable TV	616-3100
City Clerk	616-7058
City Council	616-7060
City Manager	616-7056
Code Enforcement	616-7074
Finance	616-7080
Fire - Business	616-7096
Graffiti Hotline	616-7141
Human Resources	616-7055
Library	616-7078
Recreation	616-7180
Parks	616-7195
Planning	616-7074
Police - Business	616-7100
Public Works/Corp. Yard	616-7160
Public Works/Engineering	616-7065
Senior Center	616-7150
Streets	616-7161
Utility Billing	616-7086
EMERGENCY	9 1 1